

## Explore the convergence of art and cartography

Maps were initially made to facilitate navigation and outline the topographical features of a particular place. Over the years they have evolved from the oldest surviving inscription on a stone tablet from the Babylonians dating circa 600 BC to modern 21st-century tech-driven maps on our screens.

Mumbai's transformation from a collection of islands to a flourishing metropolis can be seen on historical maps. These maps show the growth of new neighborhoods as well as the building of crucial infrastructure like roads, railways, and docks. They are updated frequently to show how the city's infrastructure and landscape are evolving. Today's maps lie at the intersection of design and cartography, combining technology and art to tell the story.

### For Immediate Release:

**Tata Group, Asiatic Society of Mumbai, Rotary Club of Bombay, Past Perfect, , and Avid Learning** present **Story of Mumbai Through Maps: Putting 'ART' in Cartography**, an inspiring panel discussion with *Typographer and Design Director, Bombay Duck Designs* **Zeenat Kulavoor**, *Founder, Kahani Designworks and Publisher, Storycity* **Ruchita Madhok**, and *Film Producer and Founder of India Visual Art Archive*, **Mrinal Kapadia**. The conversation will be moderated by *Curator (Collections, Education & Outreach) Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum* **Ruta Waghmare Baptista** to explore the creative representation of maps and their diverse uses. The artists and cultural practitioners will share their expertise on how to combine design skills with cartography to create maps that inspire curiosity, capture our imaginations and emotions, and develop a deeper appreciation for the city we call home.

### Please read below for more information:

This event is part of Asiatic Society of Mumbai and Rotary Club of Bombay's second rare map exhibition titled **Mapped: Surveys that left behind a legacy**, curated by Past Perfect Heritage Management. The panel discussion will be led by artists and experts who have explored the creative potential of working around the theme of maps. The conversation will ensure a fresh approach to exploring diverse outputs of storytelling with visual composition through maps. The panelists will discuss the innovative representation of data, the function of maps in defining cultural identities, using maps to rejuvenate interests in city's neighborhoods, and creating meaningful and impactful visual representations. The dialogue will further tap into how technology and art can be combined to bring the best versions of maps for use.

Join us as we rethink the world of maps with art and technology.

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Tuesday, 9th May 2023

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Venue:** Durbar Hall, Asiatic Society of Mumbai, Fort, Mumbai 400001

## About Speakers

**Ruchita Madhok** is a designer, artist and writer. She fell in love with history and heritage at a young age and it led her to study Exhibition Design at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. After a Masters in Scenography from Central Saint Martins London, she landed her dream job developing exhibitions at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. In 2012 she decided to return to India to establish Kahani Designworks, a design practice focussed on collaborating with the arts, culture and heritage sector in India. Since then Kahani has worked deeply in the areas of communications, experiences and publishing for the arts winning the Kyoorius Black Elephant, The CII Design Excellence Award and India's Best Design Project Awards among other recognitions. Storycity, the studio's publishing imprint, leads the way in mapping and interpreting histories of art, design and visual culture in Mumbai.

**Zeenat Kulavoor** is an artist based in Mumbai. She wears many hats, a Typographer, Graphic Designer, Book designer and a print maker, she loves working with everything that's tactile. She runs a boutique design studio called Bombay Duck Designs. At BombayDuckDesigns, she has worked on a variety of projects in the areas of branding, art direction, festival decor, packaging, murals and installations, publication design, websites and stage designs for clients ranging from MNCs to cultural institutions to Indie musicians. She has been the driving force of design and development of all self-published books and illustrated zines from BombayDuckDesigns over the past 12 years. Her personal body of work specialises in working with Multilingual Indian scripts. Urdu type, lettering & calligraphy fascinates her the most. Using tongue-in-cheek humour and wit, combined with the use of scale and varied printmaking methods, Zeenat is working towards reinventing possibilities of how the script can be a part of regular day to day life.

Even while studying to be an Industrial Engineer, **Mrinal Kapadia** always had an interest in History & Archaeology, having nearly completed a Minor degree in Classical European Archaeology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. After a short stint as a Business Management Consultant, I am now involved across different business verticals, including Film Production, and have as of 2020 formalized my interest in history by founding the India Visual Art Archive, a collection of antique art and images that endeavours to link art through history and vice-versa. Through independent research, the archive is currently focused on Company works from the erstwhile Bombay Presidency, with an emphasis on the former Bombay Island.

**Ruta Waghmare Baptista** heads the Museum's collections research and management as well as the educational activities including the Docent & Internship programme. She joined the Museum in 2013 and has worked on several historic and contemporary art exhibitions at the Museum. She also manages and strategizes content for audience engagement on the Museum's digital platforms. Ruta has extensively worked on and contributed original research as well as essays to '*Mumbai – A City Through Objects, 101 Stories from the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum*' co-published with Harper Collins to commemorate the BDL Museum's 150th anniversary in May 2022. Ruta has a Master's in Archaeology from Deccan College, Pune, an MA in World Heritage and Cultural Projects for Development, supported by UNESCO at the University of Turin in Italy, and a BA in History from Wilson College, Mumbai. She is the recipient of the 2023-24 Nehru Trust UK Visiting Fellowship award.